

Minutes of the **December 9, 2013**, regular meeting  
of the **Owosso Historical Commission** held  
at the Curwood Castle, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Director Mitchell Speers, Chairperson Joni Forster, and members Kerry Baker, Shaffer Fox, Elaine Greenway, Scott Newman, and Lorraine Weckwert

Members Absent: Gary Wilson (2 vacancies)

Guests Present: Jennifer Baker

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Forster.

Baker moved agenda approval, supported by Newman and carried.

Citizen Comments: Acknowledgement and welcome by Chairperson Forster was given to the guest in attendance.

The communications were brought to member's attention.

Motion to amend, accept and place on file minutes of November 12, 2013, was made by Newman, seconded by Greenway and accepted. (Amendment to note that no new committee appointments would take place until the current vacancies can be filled.)

Weckwert arrived at 7:07 p.m.

Baker reported her research into the purchasing a refrigerator for Curwood Castle and measurements were taken of the stairway to assure that any refrigerator purchased could be delivered to the basement. Members agreed to revisit this issue and Baker agreed to look into further price estimates.

Weckwert reported on the events held at Curwood Castle Park during Glow Owosso and Chairperson Forster reported on an event at the Gould House the same night.

Chairperson Forster noted that press releases and media contacts were the responsibility of the Chair or with the approval of the Chair, per the bylaws. Forster also noted that media related issues could also be handled by Director Speers.

Newman spoke to the group about his years of service with the Historical Commission and his desire to see Curwood Castle become a museum dedicated to the life and legacy of James Oliver Curwood. Director Speers concurred with Newman's hope to see updates to the castle and to see it restored and preserved.

Director Speers informed the group that the Owosso Historical Commission was now a member of the Michigan Museum Association and that he had begun using the resources provided by the MMA. Speers noted that he had begun research into obtaining grants for upcoming projects.

Fox thanked Weckwert and Greenway for attending his acceptance of the Amos Gould Citizen of the Year Award. He also thanked Weckwert for writing the press release surrounding the Glow Owosso events in Curwood Castle Park, calling it a "masterpiece".

Director Speers gave an update of the castle flooring, noting the price had not changed since the April estimate was given and that Dick Martin was available to do the work in January. No action was taken.

Newman left at 8:11 p.m.

Director Speers also commented on an estimate for Curwood Castle security.

Chairperson Forster asked the group to begin putting together items to be placed on the 2014 budget, noting that it must be completed by February of 2014.

Director Speers discussed his review of museum inventory software programs and his desire to begin an inventory of OHC's assets in January, when Curwood Castle is closed to the public. Weckwert made a motion to approve the purchase of inventory software, with a dollar amount not to exceed \$800. Motion was seconded by Baker and approved.

Meeting adjourned by motion at 8:34 p.m. by Baker, supported by Greenway.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mitchell Speers  
Secretary/Treasurer